

Climate Action Leadership Team

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FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY –

This draft reflects the individual contributions of Climate Action Leadership Team members and invited presenters during working group and other meetings. It is not an official reflection of the state of Alaska nor that of any organization represented by members of the Leadership team position on climate change, nor is it complete or comprehensive. It is not a consensus document.

CALT recognizes the need to evaluate all recommendations based on what is practical, achievable, and cost-effective. Final drafts will reflect the justification for all elements of the strategy. This document will be deliberative and incorporate changes, prioritization and new input through the course of CALT discussions and up until a final draft is due to the Governor in September.

Introduction and Statement of Purpose

A heightened awareness of the rapid advance of climate change in Alaska and the resulting impacts to our communities, economy and environment prompts the careful consideration of policy options and the corresponding need for strategic action. The state of Alaska is committed to better understanding and preparing for these risks by implementing a climate change strategy that is both practical and achievable, and which recognizes that climate change is interwoven into many state decisions and requires a comprehensive approach.

There is a clear need to increase resilience; our changing climate offers Alaska both challenges and opportunities that necessitate innovation and a vision for a sustainable and vibrant future. These solutions must account for and respond to the scale and speed of change, incorporate the best available science and Indigenous Knowledge, market-based solutions, and ground decisions in an analysis of the costs and benefits of any policy to this and future generations.

The state economy is dependent on natural resource development, including oil and natural gas production. While these resources are finite and contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, which are a root cause of climate change, they also support essential government services and as such our ability to adapt and respond. Development of these resources can be consistent with continued diversification of the economy, increased opportunities for citizens, and an intentional focus on clean energy investments. The state recognizes its obligation to encourage this strategic transition, while strengthening Alaska's economy.

The state's work with and alongside partners – including federal agencies, tribal and municipal governments, corporations, universities and global leaders – will strengthen and further develop realistic expectations for an economic and energy transition, including new forms of governance, attracting investment and financing for clean, affordable energy and energy efficiency, technological innovation, and new industries. Alaska's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions fit within a broader global leadership effort but are entirely driven by and responsive to where Alaska is today, and where it can be in the future. Alaska's leadership and practical approach can serve as a model for the U.S., the Arctic and the rest of the world.

Statement of Values

Values and principles that reflect the unique nature of our land and people inform the state's climate change policy. The state of Alaska will foster a collaborative and transparent environment in which it encourages cooperation with and between Alaskans for a durable and shared success. State decision-makers understand resilience as encompassing human and environmental health, recognizes opportunities to include benefits to Alaskans, and acknowledges that the future will depend on our ability to adapt to the many threats associated with a changing climate.

As the state moves forward with a climate change policy and action plan, it will use values of equity, inclusion and justice, science and technology, cost effectiveness, market-based solutions and public engagement. Alaska's climate change policy and action plan recognize that the benefits and burdens of our changing climate are unevenly distributed across the state and between communities, but envision a comprehensive and connected approach to the challenges and opportunities. The state commits to incorporating Indigenous Knowledge alongside other sources of science and to using these values and different forms of knowledge to inform decision-making. The policy and goals are rooted in and responsive to the values held by Indigenous cultures and the many other cultures and peoples who call Alaska home.

Draft Climate Change Policy

Vision: Alaska's comprehensive response to a rapidly changing climate assures healthy ecosystems and prudent natural resources management, for current and future generations. The State's climate change strategy promotes the social, ecological, cultural and economic well-being of our communities to achieve food security, energy security and environmental security in the face of climate change impacts. This approach encourages public and private sector leadership, investment and follow-through to achieve the goals, objectives and initiatives that contribute to the long-term resilience and sustainability of Alaska's communities, economies and people.

In order to ensure:

- Safe, resilient and sustainable communities,
- Economic opportunity for all residents, and a
- Healthy environment;

it is the policy of the State of Alaska as it relates to climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation, to:

- 1) **Coordinate governance, data, and response and adaptation measures to support community risk and resilience planning.**
- 2) **Invest in and encourage private sector growth of Alaska's clean energy and green economy.**
- 3) **Accelerate the strategic decarbonization of Alaska's economy through increased energy efficiency, renewable energy production and electrification.**
- 4) **Implement climate mitigation and adaptation actions using the best available science, economic and risk considerations, and Indigenous Knowledge.**
- 5) **Make, attract or leverage financial investments that correspond to the state's climate goals and objectives.**

In the furtherance of this policy, the State of Alaska will:

- Implement the accompanying Climate Action Plan, as part of an overall Climate Action Strategy;
- Implement the accompanying climate communications, outreach and public education and engagement strategy;
- Work to inform and request action from federal partners on the accompanying federal climate impact investment, program and policy recommendations;
- Request that the University of Alaska – and other research institutions – develop actions in response to the accompanying climate science and research strategy and recommendations; and
- Collaborate with municipal and tribal governments on the development of a climate scenarios planning, energy and economic transition strategy.

Draft Goals and Objectives

Policy Statement 1: Coordinate governance, data, and response and adaptation measures to support community risk and resilience planning.

Goal 1.1: The State of Alaska will empower communities to address the impacts of and adapt to climate change.

- **Objective 1.1A:** Encourage and facilitate a stronger network of municipal governments prepared to leverage resources and maximize efficiencies of cooperation.
- **Objective 1.1B:** Recognize local rights to self-determination in the process of risk and resilience planning and adaptation.
- **Objective 1.1C:** Increase community capacity to plan for and adapt to climate change, and reduce regulatory, licensing, and contracting barriers.

Goal 1.2: The State of Alaska will actively engage researchers and local governments to develop a strategic approach to community risk monitoring, assessment and planning.

- **Objective 1.2A:** Increase the availability and use of monitoring equipment to track and understand sea level, permafrost and other environment changes, as well as mapping, bathymetry and climate modeling.
- **Objective 1.2B:** Increase the efficacy and accessibility of available risk assessment tools, including evaluating and prioritizing threats.
- **Objective 1.2C:** Conduct and support prioritized community and regional risk and resilience planning in partnership with local and regional leaders, and including strong public engagement.

Goal 1.3: The State of Alaska will implement effective, efficient systems for community adaptation.

- **Objective 1.3A:** Request from federal agencies an implementation plan with associated funding in place for threatened and at-risk communities, responsive to community and regional planning.
- **Objective 1.3B:** Incorporate and make available science, best practices and Indigenous Knowledge into and for adaptation actions that include protect-in-place, migration, and community relocation.

Goal 1.4: The State of Alaska will factor climate change impacts into all intersecting state and federal government research, policy, funding and plans.

- **Objective 1.4A:** Request congressional action to amend the Stafford Act, and update the disaster definition at state and federal level to include climate change as an immediate threat and slow-onset disaster.
- **Objective 1.4B:** Reconvene an Immediate Action Working Group or similar body, or strengthen existing, to coordinate climate change action between federal, state, municipal and tribal authorities.
- **Objective 1.4C:** Increase research funding as a component and necessary aspect of disaster response.

Policy Statement 2: Invest in and encourage private sector growth of Alaska's clean energy and green economy.

Goal 2.1: The State of Alaska will support and see increases of blue and green economic activity and promote technological and process innovation in emission producing activities.

- **Objective 2.1A:** Increase value-added blue economic activities (e.g.; fisheries, mariculture, high value processing, and marine biotechnology) that leverage clean energy as part of an in-place or relocation adaptation strategy.
- **Objective 2.1B:** Develop new climate-responsive models of community economic development that support diversification, leverage local investment, and strengthen the green economy, including tourism and clean energy.

Goal 2.2: The State of Alaska will encourage and strengthen business expertise that addresses climate change mitigation or adaptation.

- **Objective 2.2A:** Consider adaptation processes and technology as an export opportunity, such that Alaskans are able to meet a global demand for climate change adaptation services.
- **Objective 2.2B:** Export technological and process innovation as it relates to carbon emission reduction.

Goal 2.3: The State of Alaska will develop training and workforce development programs specific to reducing energy demand across all energy-use sectors, and to development of renewable energy systems.

- **Objective 2.3A:** Expand efforts to train rural Alaskans in home energy audits and weatherization and retrofit techniques.
- **Objective 2.3B:** Establish training centers in urban and hub communities to train on various renewable energy production systems (solar, wind, biomass, geo-exchange, etc.).

Policy Statement 3: Maximize carbon neutral growth in Alaska through a rapid transition to clean energy, electrification and energy efficiency

Goal 3.1: The State of Alaska will work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Alaska by 30% (over 2005 levels) by 2025.

- **Objective 3.1A:** Increase efficiency of and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from natural resource development.
- **Objective 3.1B:** Increase the use of renewable and low emission energy resources in air, rail, road and marine transportation, and consider the impact to Alaska communities and economy of banning or implementing alternative fuels.
- **Objective 3.1C:** Periodically monitor for and report on emissions of greenhouse gases and the success of efforts to reduce emissions across the Alaska economy, government and communities.
- **Objective 3.1D:** Promote market-based solutions, technological innovation, a transition to natural gas, and implementing carbon capture, use and sequestration opportunities.

Goal 3.2: The State of Alaska will increase energy efficiency by 15% and receive 50% of its electric generation from renewable resources by 2025.

- **Objective 3.2A:** Improve generation efficiency and reduce line loss in industrial activities, within the Railbelt, and in rural Alaska.
- **Objective 3.2B:** Invest in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures across Alaska.
- **Objective 3.2B:** Update design and engineering standards to incorporate expected climate change metrics, work toward net zero energy public facilities, and implement a statewide residential and commercial building incentive program that responds to regional differentiation.

Goal 3.3: The State of Alaska will develop an energy transition scenario planning and strategy that leverages current and potential oil and gas development and the benefit of increased clean energy alternatives.

- **Objective 3.3A:** Conduct a sectoral analysis based on climate change impacts and opportunities, with evaluation reviewing capacity, strengths, and gaps, and the appropriate timescale for implementation based on prioritization.
- **Objective 3.3B:** Promote and develop natural gas as a bridge fuel for export and for domestic use.
- **Objective 3.3C:** Update and expand the scope of the Alaska Energy Strategy to include all areas of the state, support the climate action strategy, and incorporate a strong stakeholder engagement process, the result of which is time sensitive to economic and societal impact, and with mitigation options in place.

Policy Statement 4: Implement climate mitigation and adaptation actions using the best available science, economic and risk considerations, and Indigenous Knowledge.

Goal 4.1: The State of Alaska will reduce the impacts from climate change on Alaska's natural environment and ecosystem, including food and water.

- **Objective 4.1A:** Maintain food security and sustainable and accessible fish, wildlife and plant harvest, based on science- and Indigenous Knowledge-informed decision-making and in the public interest.
- **Objective 4.1B:** Assess threatened ecosystem response options, including reviewing harvest planning or increasing or decreasing oceanic/marine acidity.
- **Objective 4.1C:** Support increased research of impacted environmental systems.
- **Objective 4.1D:** Adopt an approach that understands ecosystem and food security health as part of human and community health.

Goal 4.2: The State of Alaska will address physical, natural, and social science data gaps in collaboration with local, regional, federal, and international partners.

- **Objective 4.2A:** Develop research-decision support systems for natural resource management among state, Indigenous, municipal and federal land and resource managers.
- **Objective 4.2B:** Conduct the baseline studies necessary for community decision-making, state and federal management decisions, and risk assessment.
- **Objective 4.2C:** Invest in critical and necessary marine, air and terrestrial data gathering equipment and infrastructure.
- **Objective 4.2D:** Develop effective mechanisms for bridging science and Indigenous Knowledge.

Policy Statement 5: Make, attract or leverage financial investments that correspond to the state's climate goals and objectives.

Goal 5.1: The State of Alaska will increase the financing available for clean energy and energy efficiency activities.

- **Objective 5.1A:** Identify and work toward long-term state-led financing of clean energy and energy efficiency (e.g.; Green Bank or other mechanism).
- **Objective 5.1B:** Explore the state's ability to access or leverage Venture Capital funds, reinsurance programs, and other innovative opportunities for funding.
- **Objective 5.1C:** Apply funding from state-owned facility energy efficiency savings to renewable energy investments.

- **Objective 5.1D:** Explore additional one-time or endowed investments that the state may lead, including focused attention to science and technology and emerging clean energy technology.

Goal 5.2: The State of Alaska will implement community adaptation funding strategies.

- **Objective 5.2A:** Mobilize private, philanthropic, state, federal and international funding sources on behalf of climate change research, adaptation, and innovation.
- **Objective 5.2B:** Institute a climate change emergency relief fund for related and anticipated threats.
- **Objective 5.2C:** Update the statutes governing Alaska's Disaster Policy Sub-Cabinet to reflect climate change disaster declaration and slow-onset characterization.
- **Objective 5.3D:** Facilitate long-term growth of options and opportunities within communities by means of low carbon economic development.

Goal 5.3: The State of Alaska will develop a pathway to a carbon pricing mechanism.

- **Objective 5.3A:** Consider implementing a carbon fee and dividend program with reinvestment of dividend in renewable energy development and energy efficiency activities.
- **Objective 5.3B:** Incentivize responsible, efficient and cleaner oil and natural gas development to support continued private investment and a clean energy transition.
- **Objective 5.3C:** Encourage opportunities for natural resource sequestration, including carbon offset efforts.